E-Mail/Internet/Computer facilities in post offices

†723. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the urban, rural and tribal areas of the country in which E-mail, Internet and computer facilities are available at present;

(b) whether Government propose to provide the above facilities in all-the important post offices situated in rural and tribal areas within a fixed time limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have formulated any time-bound programme for providing computer facility in the remaining post offices of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: (a) For the Tenth Five Year Plan the Government has approved computerization of 7700 large Departmental Post Offices. Till date 6184 large Post Offices have been provided with computer facilities across the country in urban, rural and tribal areas. Out of these, E-mail, Internet facilities in the form of "e-Post Service" of the Department are available in 771 Post Offices.

(b) and (c) All 7700 large and important Post Offices (having more than two public counters) including those located in rural and tribal areas, will be provided with computer facilities by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan subject to availability of required funds in 2006-07.

(d) and (e) There is no approval at this stage to provide computer facilites to the remaining Post Offices in the country.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.